Vaccine Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 4, 2022

Present: George Fickenworth, Betsy Wiest, Lisa Karle, Pat Tracy, Cris Taylor, Barb Lewis, Mary Viglione, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Danielle Brooks, Mary Louise Imbrugio, Rita Scrimenti, Darrell Smith

Not Present: Jenn Woodard, Jennie Hagerty, Pat Stucke, Niken Carpenter, Gary Horton, Liz McCormick, Lisa Boyd, Missy Niedzielski, Chelsea Bates, Kathy Lamb, Laura Luther, Niken Carpenter, Dave Deter, Colleen Hammon, Sherrai Holland, Steve Walters,

The meeting started at 10:03 a.m.

George Fickenworth: Opened the meeting and greeted participants.

**Health Provider Updates:**

**Health Department –** Not available for this call

**Sherrai Holland, Community Health Ne**t: Not available for this call

**Homeless Provider Updates:**

**Darrell Smith (ECM):** ECM has dropped its’ mask mandate at ECM because it is reasonable to do so. ECM is testing everyone who is new to their program. He is looking at guidelines to find out about congregate shelters and the masking requirements. Darrell shared the dining room is open with a limited number of tables. ECM is now offering breakfast. Lunches are coming out bagged but people can sit down. They continue to watch the numbers to determine how much more they will open up sit-down options.

**Danielle Brooks (CCBH):** Introduced herself in working with the homeless and was glad to join our meeting.

**Pat Tracy (Sunday Supper/ONP):** Thinks ONP will stay masked throughout the season. As of this week, ONP has stopped testing everyone at ONP. Have not had a positive case in over a month. They are only testing those who experience symptoms. Sunday Supper hoping to reopen on 4/10 (Palm Sunday) and will not be doing any take out meals. Accommodations will be made for those who cannot be in with a big crowd. They will eat in another room. Still having people bring vaccine cars. Because they are not a licensed restaurant, Sunday Supper will no longer be permitted to provide takeout meals per the Department of Health.

**Mary Viglione**: No new updates.

**Barb Lewis:** No new updates. Barb shared that she is connecting with people anywhere she can make a connection to build awareness on homelessness and the Home Team. This meeting helps her to share information with those she encounters.

**Leatrice Schoolcraft:** No new updates.

**Colleen Hammon:** No new updates. Wanted to congratulate and thank Lisa and George for the PIT Count this year.

**Cris Taylor (UR):** Dropped mask mandate this week and went to mask optional. Still are insisting people are vaccinated. Cris indicated that some clients are choosing to mask.

**Betsy Wiest (SPH):** No new updates. Any new mask mandates for shelters?

**Rita Scrimenti (Emmaus):** Shared Pat Tracy’s sentiment that since COVID, estimating the amount of food to prepare has been very challenging. Looking to do partial seating soon. As food providers reopen, they will need to look at portion sizing to assist those who may be hungry.

**Mary Louise Imbrugio:** No new updates. Feels everyone will be challenged when food services go back to eating in as many families are used to bringing meals home. Mary Louise is concerned that when take-out is no longer available, those families who have used this to feed their families may be hungry. They may not be able to come in for sit down services.

**Additional Conversation Notes:**

* Lisa gave an update on the Point In Time (PIT) count on 2/25/22. The new format of meeting people in the places where they eat (Upper Room, MHA, ECM, Emmaus) was successful. Numbers are not yet validated but are higher than they had been in the past. The new system seems to have reached people we missed in the past. George shared his impressions that people are hungry and many of those he spoke with were not necessarily unsheltered, but they are hungry and spend the day “chasing their meals”.
* Cris Taylor asked about how we count adolescents and the fact that we may not have been able to accurately count them. Is it possible to work with the schools for this information? Lisa indicated that the schools work with homeless liaisons for this information. Those who are runaways or age out of foster care may not accurately be counted.

George indicated that at one time there was a Youth Committee on the Home Team. This Committee is not currently active. This is definitely an issue the team may want to revisit.

Barb Lewis asked if Cris or his team know where the encampments are. Cris said he would work on finding that information and will get back to Barb.

* Discussion on masks. Lisa said there was an update on 2/10/22 and CDC is in the process of reviewing recommendations. The transmissibility for Erie County has moved from High to Low. Darrel shared information on things to look at in dropping mask mandates: hospitalizations over previous week, % of hospital beds occupied by COVID, # cases per 100,000. Also need to look at if you are at risk.

George shared: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html

This is a tool on CDC that identifies county level of transmission and what prevention steps should be taken based on level.

If we continue to remain Low, this will affect mask mandates.

**Joke for the day:**

Colleen: Why can’t Jesus eat M&M’s? Because has your holes in His hands.

Date for the next meeting: Friday, March 18, 2022